

**PROPASSER PULCHERRIMUS**, Hodgson.

*Propasser pulcherrimus*, Hodgson, Gray's Zool. Misc. (1844), p. 85.

*Hab.* Himalaya. In Mus. East India Comp., Brit. Mus., J. Gould, Esq.

The male differs from *P. rhodochrous* in having the forehead, superciliary streak, cheeks, throat, and under-parts, with the rump, of a paler or more silvery-crimson colour, being in some lights very silvery; the upper parts, with the crown, are dusky-brown with pale crimson-tinged edges to each feather. The female differs from the same sex of *P. rhodochrous* in having the under-parts dusky white, instead of rufescent, and the colours above are also less rufescent.

The size is the same as that of *P. rhodochrous*, excepting that in *P. pulcherrimus* the wing is longer in both sexes.

*Remarks.*—Both sexes of this species and *P. rhodochrous* were sent from Nepal by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., under the name of *pulcherrimus*, which name, upon examining his original drawings in the British Museum, we find refers to the true *rhodochrous* and not to the present species; but, as that indefatigable naturalist applied the name to both birds, we deem it but correct to retain it for the present bird.

Genus **LINOTA**, Bonaparte.

(1818) **CANNABINA**, Brehm.

**LINOTA BREVIROSTRIS**, Gould.

*Linota brevirostris*, Gould, Bonap. Geogr. et Comp. List of B. p. 34 (1838).

? *Fringilla bella*, Hempr. et Ehrenberg, Mus. Berol.

*Hab.* Erzeroum and Afghanistan. In Mus. East India Comp. et J. Gould, Esq.

Allied to *L. montium*, but distinguished from that species by its lighter colour, and the male having the pink colour on the rump paler; the axillaries and the basal edge of the inner web of the primaries and secondaries pure white; the tail being margined on the whole outer and broadly on the inner web also with pure white; the primaries and secondaries above are also broadly margined exteriorly with white. The female is also paler and broadly edged as in the male with white.

Length 5 inches; of wing  $3\frac{7}{8}$ ths; of tail  $2\frac{5}{8}$ ths; centre feathers  $\frac{1}{6}$  inch less; bill to frontal plumes  $\frac{5}{10}$ ths; to gape  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch; tarsus  $\frac{1}{10}$ ths; centre toe and claw  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths; and hind ditto  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.

*Remark.*—Cabanis in Catal. Birds Mus. Heine, p. 161, states that "the bill of *F. bella*, of Hempr. and Ehrenb., is a trifle larger than in *L. cannabina*, Linn., but in colour almost agrees with *L. fringillirostris*, Bonap. et Schlegel, Monog. Loxiens, t. 49, p. 45.

**NEW GENUS OF FISH-SCALED LIZARDS (SCISSOSARÆ), FROM NEW GUINEA.** BY J. E. GRAY, Ph.D. F.R.S., ETC. ETC.

The Lizard which I have the pleasure of bringing before the Society this evening, was presented to the British Museum, with

other most interesting and novel specimens, by Mr. John MacGillivray, who accompanied H.M.S. Herald as naturalist during her voyage in the Australasian seas.

#### CORUCIA.

Head broad, flat-topped; nostrils ovate, oblique, simple, not prolonged behind, on the middle of the lower part of the nasal shields; supranasal shields none; rostral square; internasal one, large, 8-sided, broader behind; frontal-nasal two, moderate, band-like, transverse; lateral-frontal one, small, subtrigonal, nearly equal-sided; frontal-parietals two, rhombic, contiguous at the angle; interparietal one, rhombic, elongate; eyebrows covered with band-like shields; lower eyelid with a series of larger opaque scales; temple covered with large shields; ears large, simple, edged in front.

Body fusiform, compressed; scales, 6-sided, smooth, with 3, 5 or 7 grooves, seen through the skin, of chin and underside of the body thinner, smooth.

Legs strong; toes five, cylindrical, elongate, unequal, with a series of band-like shields beneath; claws strong, curved.

Tail elongate, tapering, rather compressed, scales of upper surface like those of the back, but rather larger, with a central series of broad hexangular shields beneath.

*Hab.* Australasia.

This genus belongs to the same section in the Museum Catalogue as *Ateuchoglossus*, characterized by the simple nostril and scaled opaque lower eyelids. It differs from that genus in the smoothness of the scales, the shielded underside of the tail and several other characters.

#### CORUCIA ZEBRATA.

Pale yellowish-white (in spirits); back with irregular blackish-brown cross-bands; upper part of limbs and tail blackish, varied; head dark-brown.

*Hab.* New Guinea, the Island of San Christoval, *John MacGillivray, Esq.*, two adult and young specimens.

Length of adult nearly 2 feet.

December 11, 1855.—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the Chair.

#### DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF ACTINIA, FROM THE SOUTH COAST OF DEVON. BY E. W. H. HOLDSWORTH.

Among various species of *Actinia* collected by me in July last, on the south coast of Devon, two appear to be undescribed, and although of small size, are of some interest as being additions to the fast increasing list of our native zoophytes.

They were found on the rocks near the entrance to Dartmouth harbour, a part of our western coast, which, from its steep rugged character and its luxuriant growth of sea-weeds, presents a fruitful hunting-ground for those in search of marine productions.

The first that I have to notice may be thus characterized:—

Body smooth and cylindrical when fully extended, from half to three-quarters of an inch in height, but very much flattened when